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Anniversary of The Genocid
Special Issue

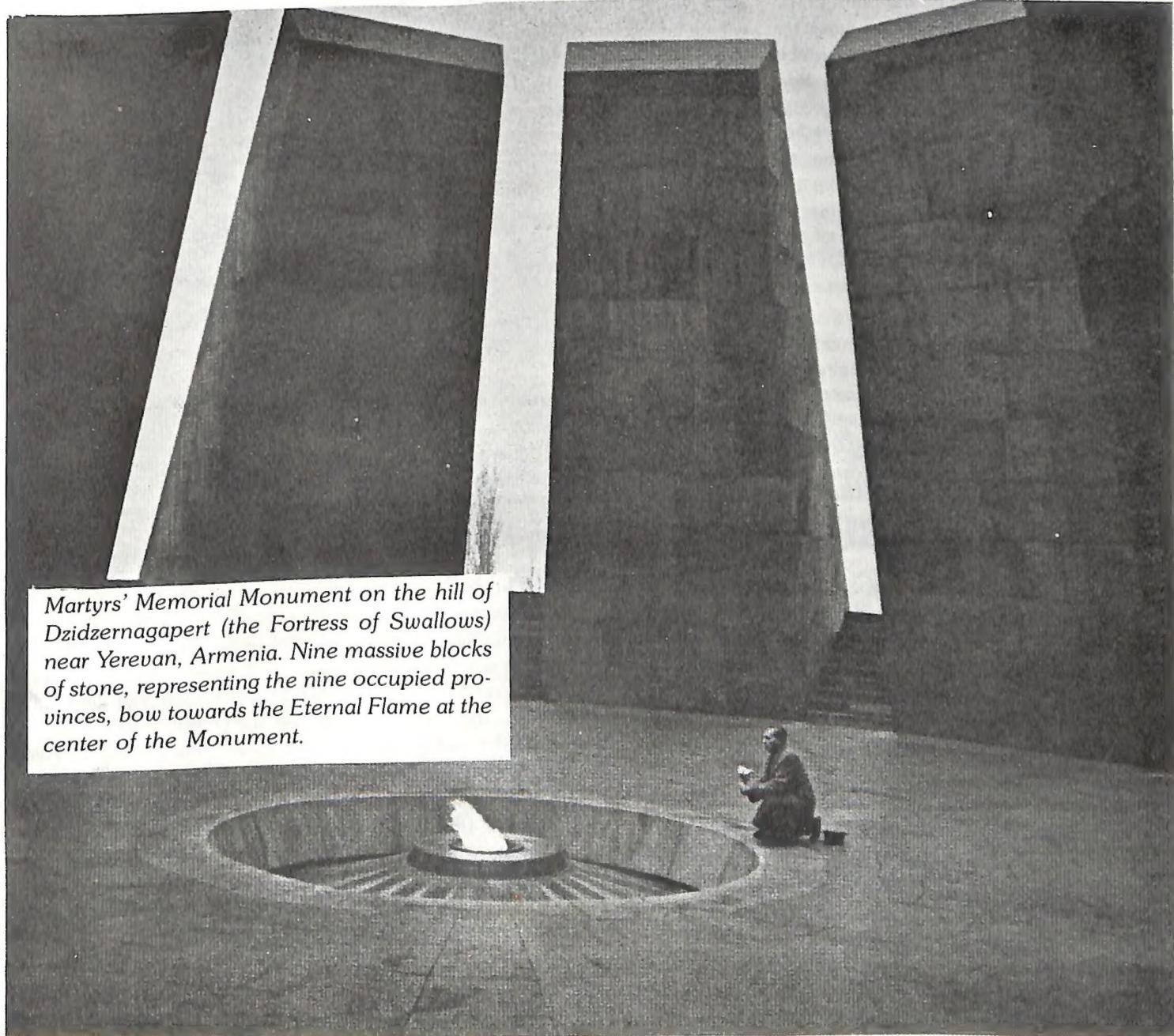
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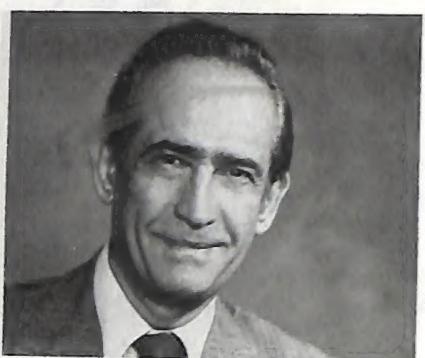
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70 YEARS OF PAIN, TEARS AND EXPECTATIONS



G. H. Chopourian

non-productive for the Turks, given the heavy weight of historical evidence and eyewitness accounts.

On the day when the Turkish Embassy in Canada was held-up by Armenian freedom-fighters, a telephone call reached us from the Ottawa radio station. The manager desired to receive information on the historicity of the Genocide. During the telephone interview, he exclaimed, "I can't comprehend why Turks who were not the perpetrators of the Genocide are being punished. How long will these activities continue?" It was pointed out to him that reaction will continue as long as Turkey does not acknowledge the event, that the future will be far worse, and that history will in time favor the Armenian position. "Why?" he inquired. Because, he was told, Armenians in the Diaspora have come of age; there is an abundance of professional leaders; Armenians are in places of influence; they have accumulated a great deal of wealth; political parties cannot muzzle independent efforts anymore.

Armenians at the present time have three alternatives:

1. To Remember the Event. To forget is a crime as hideous as the Genocide itself.

Armenians must remember, but not destroy. The greater sector of Armenians will want to act as good Christians and will concur with the prophet Isaiah: ". . . they

— G.H. Chopourian

shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:4 Yes, Armenians must forgive and work for peace, but not forget for the sake of humanity.

2. To Remind. They must remind the world of the consequences of failure to condemn the Armenian Genocide and hence all Genocides. Nations will tend to be hardened with no fear of consequences and perpetrate official national atrocities. Armenians must become anti-genocide evangelists.

3. To Respond. The temptation for most of us is to argue in theoretic terms about the hideous nature of genocide, but fail to go to the succor of those who are facing genocide, massacre, programs, famine, impoverishment of tragedy. How can we respond? By expressing our gratitude to the millions who helped in the salvation of the remnants of the Armenian Genocide. . . By giving of ourselves and of our wealth to those who need. The Editor of Avarair has expressed such an attitude of gratefulness and put a challenge in these words: ". . . at our darkest hour, we were rescued from the jaws of death by generosity and benefice from a totally unknown and unexpected source—the people of America. At the time of our need, the American

(Cont. on page 5)

"KRISDOS HARYAV EE MERELOTZ"

Dear Friends:

We greet you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our gratitude for Christ's vicarious life also arouses our thankfulness for your friendship. Please accept our sincere gratitude for the many ways in which you have upheld us.

Some of you have written your appreciation, some have given new ideas, many have prayed daily for us, others have done volunteer work and still others have promoted the AMAA among friends and neighbors as a labor of love. All these acts stimulate us to commit ourselves more fully. Oh! How thankful we are! Please do continue to pray.

Just as importantly, we are mindful of the financial support you have so faithfully and generously provided. You, our generous and caring members and friends, have made it possible for the Association to function helpfully. You have really made the difference! You are special! That is why we praise God in all our "remembrance of you. . . thankful for your partnership in the Gospel." Phil. 1:3-5.

In April we shall also commemorate the Seventieth Anniversary of the genocide of the Armenian people. This remembrance will undoubtedly evoke the memory of our martyrs who died for Christ. More importantly, it will highlight the reality of the resurrection event, demonstrating the risen Lord has overcome death, sin and power. Our Lord, who gives us the victory over sin and death, has promised, "Because I live you shall live also."

As you feel the power of the resurrection surge in your being on Easter Day, may the Armenian greeting ring loud and clear, *Krisdoss Hariau Ee Merelotz*, and the confirming answer, in praise, *Orhnial Eh Haroutunu Krisdossi*, ring louder.

Yours in Him,

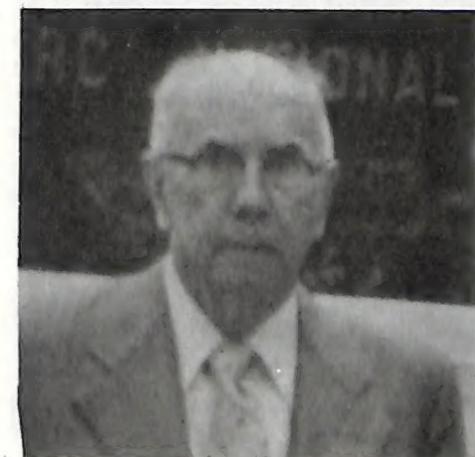
G.H. Chopourian
Executive Director

Nazar Daghlian
President, AMAA

THE EYEWITNESS STORY OF "THE FORTY DAYS OF MUSA DAGH"

JUN 2011

—Alexander A. Antrasian



Alexander A. Antrasian

Editor's Note: This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide of the Armenian Nation as well as the heroic episode of Musa Dagh. On this occasion, we shall present in three issues an article by Mr. Alexander Antrasian entitled, "The Eyewitness Story of 'The Forty Days of Musa Dagh.'" Mr. Antrasian, a resident of Upper Darby, PA, and a member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, is the brother of the late Rev. Dikran Andreassian who had a prominent role in organizing and leading the Musa Dagh defense. Mr. Antrasian's brief account of this most glorious episode in the history of our people is presented as our modest participation in the Seventieth Anniversary commemorations of the Genocide. Our particular specialty as a Missionary Association and the scarcity of space for a bi-monthly (once every two months) publication.

I

Friends and fellow Armenians: I would like to share with you my memories of what happened to my people 65 years ago.

As far as numbers and dates are concerned I have made use of my brother, Rev. Dikran Andreassian's booklet, "The Surrender of Zeitoon and the Rebellion of Swedia." He was one of the leaders of the rebellion and had recorded the day to day occurrences of those 40 days.

Where is Musa Dagh? What were the living conditions of the people living there? Under what conditions did they

The Inspirational Corner

Would He Be Ashamed of Me?

I am building, ever building,
As I live from day to day,
Something good or something evil,
By the things I do and say.
Soon I'll have a finished structure,
Standing for eternity.
But if Christ should look upon it,
Would He be ashamed of me?

There are little seeds of kindness
That are ready to be sown;
There's a noble deed that's waiting
To be done by me alone.
There are acts that break or injure—
Mean and selfish as can be.
If my deeds were known to Jesus,
Would He be ashamed of me?

Up ahead the road's dividing;
Here and now I must decide.
One there is that's straight and narrow,
And the other smooth and wide.
After one of these is chosen,
And I've reached my destiny,
If He found me there, I wonder,
Would He be ashamed of me?

—SETH BAKER

Note: This poem is taken from Seth Baker's "Along Life's Highway," a collection of poems dedicated to the memory of his late father, the Rev. Setrak Ekmekjian. Mr. Baker, a resident of Pasadena CA, is a devout Christian and a long-time generous supporter of the Missionary outreach of the AMAA.



THE SHOWERS OF APRIL

By Pauline Kourian Vick

The showers of April fall each Spring
on the Earth
They are tears mixed with sorrows and
joys of re-birth

Tears for our Martyrs so wantonly slain
By a Godless enemy, wicked and
vain.

Tears for our people who marched to
their death

Praising God's name till their very
last breath

First Christians on earth, the soil was
their life

This was their "crime" with ne're ending
strife.

Like God's Holy Word, man could
never destroy

Their seed on this earth, and this is
our joy.

May the showers of April forever
remind

The world of our Martyrs, who gave
for mankind.

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A PROBABLE SOURCE OF “FORTY DAYS OF MUSA DAGH”

By Arshag Manesian (Editor of the former *The New Armenia*)



Rev. Dikran Andreassian, Leader of the Musa Dagh Defence

mountain, grouped in seven villages. We had our pet name for the mountain. We used to call it "Our Mountain" (Mehr Lehre) and indeed our mountain it was. We were the only people that benefitted from it. We used it as grazing grounds for our domestic animals. We also freely made use of its wood for heating and cooking purposes. Our people, including women and children, could roam all over the mountain without fear.

The seven Armenian villages, going from east to west, were lined up thus: Bitias, Hadjie-Habibieh, Yoghounolouk, Khedir-Bey, Vakuf, Ezzair and Kebousia.

Our neighboring communities were as follows: To the east of us was the city of Antioch and to the north were the heights of Musa Dagh. Our neighbors to the south were Greeks and Alewies whom we used to call Tots. Both were Arabic speaking people. The Greeks were Christians and the Alewites belonged to a Mohammedan sect. We got along with them very well.

To the west of us was the Mediterranean Sea which we also called "our sea" (mehr dzoveh).

Our area was an agricultural area. The land area that separated the Armenian villages from each other, which was anywhere from one mile to no more than three or four miles, was cultivated by the nearest Armenian villagers.

Each family owned from a few acres to 15 or 20 acres or more.

Most of the acreage was planted with mulberry trees, because the main source of cash income people had was from raising silk worms. The cocoons they made

were exported to Europe where they were processed into silk cloth. The silk worms ate nothing but "Mulberry" leaves.

Our people also had olive trees, fig trees, bay trees and almost every other kind of fruit tree. We also raised many kinds of vegetables for our own use.

Besides tilling the land some of our people had trades that they worked at them at home. The prevailing trades were: comb-making, mostly of wood, and also of bones and horns. Some of our men made wooden spoons and forks and also there were some weavers. They all worked independently at their homes, and often women folk did their part in the production.

Every family had its own home, and hardly anybody worked for someone else for wages.

More than ninety percent of the population was Loosavorchagan, the rest being Protestant and Catholic.

We had our own dialect which we called Kistinug (the language of Christians). It is a form of Armenian with a generous number of Turkish and Arabic words mixed with it. All in all it was a beautiful corner of the world, everyone minding his own business.

Then came 1914, and the First World War started in Europe. The Central Powers, meaning Imperial Germany, Austria-Hungary, and later Bulgaria confronted Great Britain, France and Russia, which were collectively referred to as the Allies.

In 1915 Turkey also was drawn in on the side of the Central Powers.

The Turkish government under the leadership of Ittihad, the ruling Turkish political party, considered this was a golden opportunity to solve the Armenian problem for once and for all, as the European powers were fighting for their own existence and were in no position to intervene.

First, they disarmed all the Armenian soldiers in the Turkish army and switched them to their labor camps.

On July 12 of the same year my brother, Rev. Dikran Andreassian, arrived home with his family. They were coming from Zeitoon. They had witnessed the deportation of all the Armenians in Zeitoon and the surrounding area.

Armenian soldiers in those labor corps were treated terribly. Here and there they were even massacred. Consequently, they started deserting the labor corps and returning home. Those soldiers and also some travelers were bringing us heart-rending stories about how the Armenians were being treated in other parts of Turkey, how they were being uprooted from their ancestral homes and taken to the deserts of Syria and Arabia. They were driving them through hostile areas and allowing beastly crowds to rob them, to kill them and to rape their women.

We on Musa Dagh started worrying that they would get to us also.

It was in the middle of silk worm raising season, on March 28, 1915, to be exact, when on getting up in the morning we noticed moving objects on the nearby hills. Soon we discovered they were Turkish soldiers who had surrounded the Armenian villages to search for AWOL soldiers and illegal arms. Shortly, they moved to the center of our village and the officers established their headquarters at the Armenian Catholic Church. They had chosen that spot because of its strategic location. Parenthetically let me say that I am describing the happenings of that day in my native Yoghounolouk.

We heard that simultaneously the same scenes were being enacted in the other villages also. They searched every house but they did not find any forbidden arms. But they were able to bag several AWOL soldiers whom they beat mercilessly and took with them when they left.

I am sure you are all thinking, "How come they didn't find any forbidden fire arms?" Our young people (meaning the young people of all the villages) had been tipped through their contacts in Antioch about what the government was up to. The evening before, they had taken their arms and ammunition and disappeared in the woods of Musa Dagh.

After that we had about three uneventful but anxious months.

Right here an explanation is due: before 1908 no Christians were conscripted for army duty. Instead, they used to pay a special tax. But in 1908 when the so called young Turks, through a coup, transformed their absolute monarchy into a constitutional monarchy, they changed the law and started conscripting Christians also.

(To be continued)

Various opinions have been expressed as to how Franz Werfel conceived the idea of writing his famous novel, *Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. Mention has been made of his visit to the venerable Armenian Convent, at Saint Lazare, Venice, Italy, to study Armenian history and literature; and to Damascus, to assemble facts about the persecution and the deportation of the Armenian people by the Turks, but so far no reference has been made to a personal story, entitled *A Red Cross That Saved Four Thousand*, in which the Reverend Dikran Andreassian, narrates, in a prosaic language, how 5,000 Armenians on Musa Dagh defended themselves, bravely, for forty-four days, against Turkish soldiers and hordes, and how, finally 4,000 of them were rescued through a white flag, with a huge red cross painted at the center, which caught the attention of the French cruiser Guichen.

The Reverend Andreassian's story, translated into English by the Reverend Dr. Stephen Trowbridge, was published in the January, 1916 issue of *The New Armenia*, and a few days later reprinted in the *New York Evening Sun*.

I surmise that Dr. Johannes Lepsius, the Armenophile German pastor, who received *The New Armenia* regularly, and who, according to Franz Werfel, was furnishing him with materials, must have shown him the Reverend Andreassian's *A Red Cross That Saved Four Thousand*.

Except for romantic inventions, fic-

titious personages and dramatic scenes, almost all the leading characters, gripping incidents, elaborately portrayed by Franz Werfel in *Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, are found in *A Red Cross That Saved Four Thousand*.

In one instance, pp 429-430 of *Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, Franz Werfel has borrowed, nearly verbatim, from the manifesto, which the Reverend Andreassian had prepared, in triplicate copies, to be delivered by Armenian swimmers to any passing European vessels. It reads, in part:

"To any English, American, French, Italian or Russian admiral, captain or authority whom this petition may find; we appeal in the name of God and human brotherhood.

"We, the people of six Armenian villages, about 5,000 souls in all, have withdrawn to that part of Mousa Dagh called Damlajik which is three hours journey northwest from Suediye along the seacoast.

"We have taken refuge here from Turkish barbarism and torture, and most of all from the outraging of the honor of our women.

"Sir, you must have heard about the policy of annihilation which the Turks are applying to our nation. Under cover of dispersing the Armenians as if to avoid rebellion, our people are expelled from their houses, deprived of their gardens, their vineyards, and all of the possessions.

"This brutal program has already been applied to the city of Zeitoon and its thirty-two villages, of Albustan, Geoksun, Yarpouz, Gurin, Diarbekir, Adana, Tarsus, Mersin, Deort Yol, Hadjin, etcetera. And the same policy is being extended to all the one and half million Armenians in different parts of Turkey. . . .

"Sir, we appeal to you in the name of Christ!

"Transport us, we pray you, to Cyprus or any other free land. Our people are not indolent; we will earn our own bread if we are employed.

"If this is too much to grant, transport at least our women, old people and children, equip us with sufficient arms, ammunition and food, and we will work with you with all our might against the Turkish forces. Please sir, do not wait until it is too late!

"Respectfully your servant, for all the Christians here.

Dikran Andreassian"

My friend, Mr. Joseph Henry Jackson, the erudite book reviewer of the San Francisco Chronicle, who read the Reverend Andreassian's *A Red Cross That Saved Four Thousand*, agrees with my conjecture that Franz Werfel must have seen that story.

Verily a great artist, Franz Werfel, who with his creative genius, and in an ornate and exalted style, has transmitted the alloy of *A Red Cross That Saved Four Thousand* into the gold of *Forty Days of Musa Dagh*!

ing of the Armenian people; putting themselves in the place of Armenians and letting empathy develop within them.

Who knows! An answer might emerge!

EDWARD KAVJIAN, M.D.

In the story on the 70th birthday celebrations of Edward Kavjian, M.D., (Feb. 1985), we said tongue in cheek, "he was working towards Professional Boxing but ended up in Medicine" to indicate he is a healthy and strong man. As a matter of fact, boxing was one sports activity for him in addition to baseball, basketball, wrestling and tennis in all of which he reached high level of performance in College Competition.

ARTHUR H. DADIAN OF WASHINGTON, D.C. WRITES TO OUR SECRETARY OF STATE

As another service to the Genocide Cause on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we wish to publish a letter that Mr. Arthur H. Dadian wrote to the U.S. Secretary of State, George P. Shultz. Attached to his letter, Mr. Dadian had an extensive statement about his experiences of the Armenian Genocide, a summary of which follows:

He testifies to the fact that a genocide was executed in successive stages. First Armenian leaders were arrested and hung in a public square; then, able-bodied men were sent to work on road projects near the Russian Front and then killed in groups; his father, who was returned to his town under "police protection" to manage the business the Turkish Pasha had bought from him, came upon a field where a massacre had taken place; he witnessed personally Turks in military uniforms drag out girl students, of the American College and take their selections with them; his father was arrested, but saved by a Turkish leader who got him out of jail shortly before being shot and advised him to leave the city immediately.

Here's his eloquent and intelligent letter to Mr. Shultz.

The Hon. George P. Shultz
U.S. Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520
Dear Mr. Shultz:

I wrote the enclosed brief summary of my experiences during the Genocide of the Armenians in Turkey during World War I for your information. I believe it proves beyond any reasonable doubt that the Turkish government did plan and execute such a genocide. I hope it will induce you to tell the Turkish Prime Minister when you meet with him in April that it is futile to continue denying the established facts of history and that you can no longer allow your Department to be a party to such a denial.

May I add that our government's caving in to the Turkish government's demand to falsify history does not make Turkey a better ally. On the contrary, it makes the Turks display open contempt for our government and look upon

America merely as a country to be bullied and exploited.

Mr. Secretary, please let's put an end to this inhumane, non-productive, time consuming and un-American side show. Let's please stop letting the Turkish government make our Turkish policy. Let's not let our State Department be diverted from the basic issues and problems facing us. And please let's let the souls of those tortured to death lie in peace. Thank you.

Most respectfully,
Arthur H. Dadian

CC: Pres. Reagan and others

Should not all Armenian U.S. Citizens write to the Secretary of State?

ARTHUR DADIAN'S BACKGROUND

Arthur H. Dadian's parents brought him to the United States in 1921 after escaping from the Genocide of the Armenians in Turkey and settled in Watertown, Mass. As with other Armenians who came to America, they were received with open arms and were helped by everyone they met. It was this kindness and moral support that enabled Arthur to graduate from Harvard College, Harvard Business School and later Georgetown Law School.

While a student at Harvard Business School he felt that the future leaders of American industry should be up on problems facing America and founded the "Century Club." It is now a very select group with an illustrious list of alumn-leaders of American business and government going back to 1933.

In 1936 Arthur went to Washington to work for the New Deal. This gave him the opportunity to pay part of his debt to America by making a substantial contribution, especially to America's war effort during World War II. And during President Johnson's term, the "Business Executives Advisory Council to the White House" was established at his suggestion and he served on it. Arthur also served as President of "Harvard Business School Club of Washington."

He is now retired and has been doing all he can to stop our State Department from bringing disgrace and contempt upon America by caving in to the Turkish

demand to deny the Armenian Genocide. Turks know that they committed the genocide and they also know that our State Department and the whole world know it. Our yielding to them on this point makes them, if not the whole world, have contempt and distrust for America. His attempts to make our State Department see the error of its ways is an example of the kind of faith and trust he and all other American-Armenians have in America.

Mr. Dadian testifies to the fact that his family always felt most grateful to the decent Turks who saved them during the Genocide. These Turks felt ashamed of what was being done to the Armenians and felt sorry of Turkey for eliminating its loyal, industrious and competent Armenian population. They felt that Turkey will never be the same again without its Armenian population. It is unfortunate for America and for Turkey that it is not these Turks we now have for an ally.

THE ARMENIAN RUG: A SEQUEL

The story of the Armenian Rug presented to President Coolidge in gratitude for Armenian aid to victims of the Armenian Genocide by the Turks appeared in the U.S. Congressional Record, as was reported in the February AMAA News. Reference is made in the Record to the man from Ourfa who had supervised the weaving. We now have evidence that person was Mr. Hovhannes Tachdjian, the father of Dr. Vahagn Tachdjian of Philadelphia, a good friend of the AMAA.

In 1897 Dr. Lepsius established a rug factory in a German city which was transferred to Ourfa. Having taught the fast-learning Armenian artisans, one of whom was Hovhannes Tachdjian, the experts left after two years. In 1918, at the close of WWI, the English and French occupied Ourfa and turned over the Rug Factory to the Armenian National Trustees. But as a result of the Kemalist



U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Dr. H. Martin Deranian of Worcester, Mass., and Set Momjian examine the "Coolidge Rug" in the White House.

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The AEUNA and the AMAA are participating with the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, The National Committee and other organizations in commemorating the Seventieth Anniversary of the Genocide of the Armenian people.

The wide range of political, cultural and religious activities are coordinated to convey a unified message to participants and to the world that Armenians have regenerated themselves from the holocaust of 1915—a blow aimed at annihilating the Armenian people; therefore, every Armenian should participate in the activities of the seventieth anniversary.

The National Commemorative Committee, through its local committees, is engaged in its efforts to ensure the participation of the largest possible number of survivors of the Genocide. However, thousands of second and third generation of Armenians must also be present in order to demonstrate the unbroken link between the generations.

The AEUNA representative on the National Commemorative Committee is the Reverend Vartan Hartunian.

For more details, see the April 24-28 schedule of activities below.

I. Major Non-Partisan Commemoration Rally in Times Square Planned for April 21

A major public rally commemorating the 70th anniversary of the World War I Genocide will be held on Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., April 21 in the vicinity of Times Square in Mid-Manhattan. The rally is being organized by the Mid-Atlantic Inter-Lodge Committee of the Knights of Vartan and other organizations.

The Armenian public will be advised of the final plans of the mass rally in the coming weeks.

II. April 21-23, Panel Discussion and Forum

Organized by the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

III. April 24 - 28 in Washington, D.C.

MOTTO — Armenia: Our Commitment is Forever

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24:

Prayer in the U.S. House of Reps.

Prayer in the U.S. Senate

Capitol Hill Reception

Official Opening of Art Exhibits:

• Architectural Exhibit

• Rug Exhibit

• Khachkar Exhibit

• Doll Exhibit

• Painting Exhibit

• Book Exhibit

• Lace/Needlework Exhibit

Visitations to Congressmen

THURSDAY, APRIL 25:

Official Opening of Film Festival

Lecture on Armenian

Architecture — I

Armen Hakhnazarian

Poetry Forum

Art Exhibits — Open

Visitations to Congressmen

FRIDAY, APRIL 26:

Lecture on Armenian

Architecture — II

Armen Hakhnazarian

History Lecture — I

Richard Hovannessian

Films & Videos

Art Exhibits — Open

Visitations to Congressmen

Cultural Night at DAR

Constitution Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 27:

History Lecture — II

Richard Hovannessian

Youth Seminar

Armenian School Festival

Films & Videos

Art Exhibits — Open

Banquet

SUNDAY, APRIL 28:

Arlington National Cemetery

Service

Closing Services

THE STORY OF THE TURKISH ATROCITIES DRIVES DR. WILLIAM P. LEVONIAN TO GOOD WORKS



Dr. William P. Levonian

As a young lad, when the massacres became imminent, my father was sent out of Armenia by his mother (my grandmother). His father (my grandfather) had already been killed by the Turks. Naturally his mother did what she could to save her children. My Dad never saw his mother alive again.

At that time, the world was unable to help the starving Armenians out in that scorching desert, for World War I was upon them. But this is what drives Levonian today.

The African Disaster

Dr. William P. Levonian, a physician in Santa Cruz, the son of the late Rev. Puzant Levonian and member of the Soquel Congregational Church writes: "Thought you might be interested in a little human interest from way out in California. Your AMAA NEWS had an article pertaining to starvation in Africa. This got me thinking, so I've made a presentation that I'll present at both services at our church...."

The Church's Role of Stewardship

After defining the true significance of the church in his presentation and proposing that man must give back to God what is already His, he wonders why he is so driven to speak up for the Africans who are in famine. "What is there in my background that increases my gratitude to this country and drives me to be eager to help?" he asks.

The Turkish Atrocities Against Armenians

Early in this century he explains, the Turkish government wanted to rid itself of a portion of its populace that it considered "a problem." Hence the first genocide of this century took place when the Turkish government with its death marches sent one and a half million Armenians to their extinction in the scorching deserts leading to Der-el-Zor. These weren't some nebulous people in an unknown part of the world. These were people like you and me, with their families and loved ones, their desires and their goals. House by house, men, women and children were driven into the streets and marched off to the desert.

our power to help where we can. With thousands of churches giving, perhaps something can be accomplished.

Nothing is gained by throwing up one's hands in dismay over the magnitude of the problem, for in that case, one does nothing but sit on one's hands. If you can help only one person, then for that one person and that person's lineage it makes all the difference in the world. This of course is how Christ handled his day to day situations. Could you ever imagine Christ giving up on the poor and the sick simply because there were so many of them?

Note: Dr. Levonian has promoted the work of Haigazian College in his church. He has made the following request of the AMAA to continue his promotion of Haigazian College: "As chairman of the Missions Board at our church, I am going to put a little blurb up in the social hall about Haigazian College, so any literature or pictures you have on the subject would be appreciated. We'll let them know what they are giving to." AMAA provided the appropriate materials.

1971-1983 HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE GRADUATES

Haigazian College was established in 1955 and had its first graduation class of two in 1960. On request recently, the AMAA received a report on the graduates from 1971-83, with special emphasis on the status of Armenian Evangelical graduates. When times get quieter, the report can be updated to 1955-1970.

To obtain a feel for the kind of leaders the College has prepared for the Armenian people, the employment status of Evangelical graduates was taken as a base. The flow chart below demonstrates a satisfactory leadership outlay. If the same ratio holds for the non-Evangelical Armenian students, the harvest of leaders the College has provided is proof for its continuity. Out of a total of 784 graduates over 450 were Armenians. This would mean the provision, on a guesstimate, of

about 140 teachers, principals or professors, 6 preachers, 30 social workers:

Total number of graduates	784
Ratio of Armenians to total	450 (57.5%)
Ratio of Evangelicals to total	67 (8.5%)
Ratio of Evangelicals to total	
Armenians	67 (11.5%)
Out of the 67 Evangelicals:	
Preachers	1 (1.5%)
Teachers, Principals, Professors	22 (33%)
Social Service Workers	5 (7.5%)
Businessmen	22 (33%)
Students	7 (10%)
Housewives	10 (15%)

As a small Armenian Evangelical community we have been able to serve the Armenian Diaspora well all on our own, with few exceptions. We could do so much more with universal support. Shall we be heard this time?

AMAA REPRESENTATIVES AND BOARD MEMBERS HOLD IMPORTANT MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

Pursuant to its tradition of meeting at least once a year on the West Coast, the Board of Directors of the AMAA held a meeting on Saturday, January 26, 1985 at the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood, CA. East Coast Board Members attending the meeting were Mr. Nazar Daghlian, the President; Albert Momjian, Esq., Solicitor of the Association; Mrs. Elida N. Telfeyan; the Rev. Karl V. Avakian; the Rev. Ron Tovmassian; Dr. G. H. Chopourian; and the Rev. Moses B. Janbazian. West Coast Board Members joining the meeting included Mrs. Alice Haig, Vice-President; Mr. Hrant Agbabian; Dr. Daniel Abdalian; Mr. Vahe Ashkarian; Dr. Rendel Levonian, Chairman of the Haigazian College Trustees; Mrs. Joyce Stein, Chairman of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation (SPF); Mr. Hagop Loussararian, the newly appointed West Coast Regional Director of the AMAA; the Rev. Harry Missirlian, Minister to the Union; the Rev. E. S. Tovmassian, Honorary Executive Secretary of AMAA; and Steve Krajian, President of the AEYF. Guests were Robert Hekemian, Jr. of Tenafly, NJ; Sarkis Kalfayan, Ph.D., of La Canada, CA; George Phillips, Esq. of Los Angeles, CA; Tina Stein, of Indian Wells, CA; Norair Sarian of Los Angeles, CA.

The presence of East Coast officers and Board Members in Los Angeles also afforded them the opportunity to meet with the leaders of the local Armenian Evangelical Community to review together some of the important AMAA supported projects in the region. In these past few years, with the steady growth of the Armenian Community in North America, the AMAA has been increasingly focusing its attention on Home Mission projects, without, however, reducing its budgetary provisions for overseas services. In Los Angeles alone, the AMAA supports over half a dozen social service, educational, evangelism and relief projects, noteworthy among which are: The Merdian Armenian Evangelical School, the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Centers of Los Angeles, the Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School, the Hollywood Children's and



Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian (left) with Dr. Pepronia Merjanian displaying The Silver Tray of Appreciation presented to her in recognition of her outstanding services to the AMAA.



Mr. Nazar Daghlian, the president of the AMAA, greeting the guests at the Banquet. Sitting to his left is Mrs. Zarouhi Jamgotchian, Chairman of the Missions Committee of the UACC.



West Coast Board Members Dr. Daniel Abdalian and Mr. Hrant Agbabian at the Board meeting.

services to the AMAA during the past three years. Also taking part in the program were musicians Stepan and Christine Merjanian and Michael Memley who presented violin-piano selections, and Steve Niksarian and Diana Minaskanian who led the Sunday School children in song.

Prior to and following the Board Meeting, the Rev. Movses Janbazian and Mr. Loussararian, the Field and West Coast Regional Directors of the Association, engaged in their annual Field work activities for the purpose of visiting with the churches, AMAA Chapters, Missions Committees as well as members and friends of the Association in California.

AMAA ENDOWMENT FUNDS GROW

Thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of mission-minded individuals and families, more than 1500 Endowment Funds have been established with the AMAA to date. Some of these are in the amount of \$1,000.00, others range from \$5,000.00 to \$1.5 million. Endowment Funds have a vital part in the financial stability of the Association. A substantial portion of the annual budget of the Association is provided from the income of these Funds. In fact, had it not been for the stable income of these funds this year, the Association would not have had the resources to allocate \$1.56 million for its missionary projects at home and abroad.

During these past few months, several persons established New Endowment Funds, while others augmented their existing funds through special donation or estate gifts. Below is a list of the New Endowment Funds as well as those Funds which were augmented by special gifts of \$1,000.00 and over.

NEW ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	DONOR	AMOUNT	TOTAL
The Jack & Mary Joseph Endowment Fund	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph</i>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
The Rev. Nerves Khachadourian Memorial Fund	<i>Family, Relatives, Friends</i>	2,210.00	2,210.00
The Rose (Garabedian) Hagopian Memorial Fund	<i>Family, Relatives, Friends</i>	700.00	700.00
The Giragos & Yeshapet Boghosian and Apraham & Maritza Chakmakjian Memorial Fund	<i>Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Hagop Chakmakjian</i>	200.00	200.00
The Mr. & Mrs. Enoch Goorabian Endowment Fund	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Enoch Goorabian</i>	1,000.00	1,000.00
Dr. Vahe and Emelia Churukian Education Fund	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Vahe Churukian</i>	5,000.00	5,000.00

FUNDS FROM ESTATE BEQUESTS

	DONOR	AMOUNT	TOTAL
The Hagop & Annie Arabajian Memorial Fund	<i>Annie Arabajian</i>	\$29,131.34	\$94,879.58
The James A. Davidian Memorial Fund	<i>James A. Davidian</i>	40,000.00	40,000.00
The Dr. & Mrs. Vahe Roubian Fund	<i>Dr. Vahe Roubian</i>	2,000.00	7,350.69
The Sarkis and Mary Paul Mouradian Endowment Fund	<i>Mrs. Mary Paul Mooradian</i>	35,000.00	35,000.00

ADDITIONS TO FUNDS

	DONOR	AMOUNT	TOTAL
The Aijian/Philibosian Endowment Fund	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Monroe, Jr.</i>	\$1,000.00	\$1,309,408.21
The Leon Peters Scholarship Fund	<i>Haigazian College Women's Auxiliary of California</i>	5,000.00	39,680.00
The Arthur H. Dadian Child Education Sponsorship Fund	<i>Mr. Arthur Dadian</i>	20,000.00	25,000.00
Anonymous	<i>Anonymous</i>	4,000.00	153,274.32
The Dr. Haig Robert Darpinian Memorial Fund	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Anarig Timourian</i>	23,314.10	31,433.57
Anonymous Endowment Fund	<i>Anonymous</i>	5,000.00	60,000.00
Anonymous Endowment Fund	<i>Anonymous</i>	5,000.00	8,000.00
The Jameson Family Endowment Fund	<i>Mr. & Mrs. James Jameson</i>	2,000.00	15,000.00
Aynilian Family Fund	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Nerves Aynilian</i>	19,075.00	51,934.70

ADDITIONS TO FUNDS

DONOR	AMOUNT	TOTAL
<i>Mrs. Marie Nahigian</i>	2,000.00	23,467.57
<i>Mr. Leo Diran</i>	1,000.00	54,000.00
<i>Miss Mary Diran</i>	1,500.00	5,000.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Ashkarian</i>	12,023.85	25,000.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Sermabeikian</i>	1,500.00	1,500.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Suren Donabedian</i>	1,000.00	2,500.00
<i>Mrs. Nooritza Vart</i>	6,000.00	7,000.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Armen Dohanian</i>	1,000.00	5,500.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Alexanian</i>	1,350.00	4,125.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. George Phillips</i>	1,000.00	2,000.00
<i>Mrs. Edward (Ann) Nahigian</i>	1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Dr. & Mrs. Edward Merjanian</i>	2,000.00	4,500.00
<i>Miss Elizabeth Kenosian</i>	1,000.00	5,000.00
<i>Mr. Charles Kenosian</i>	1,000.00	5,000.00
<i>Dr. & Mrs. Edward Karjian</i>	1,000.00	7,250.00
<i>Dr. & Mrs. Edward Karian</i>	1,000.00	6,100.00
<i>Rev. & Mrs. Alvin R. McKinon</i>	1,110.49	4,624.06
<i>Dr. & Mrs. Rendel Levonian</i>	5,000.00	43,000.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Enoch Kashishian</i>	1,000.00	5,000.00
<i>Dr. & Mrs. George Bezirganian</i>	1,000.00	8,000.00
<i>Mrs. Grace A. Kalyn</i>	1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Nevdon Hannesian</i>	1,000.00	2,401.56
<i>Mrs. Louise Nazarian</i>	1,000.00	7,255.00
<i>Queenie & Beatrice Harpoolian</i>	1,000.00	4,000.00
<i>Anonymous</i>	1,500.00	6,500.00
<i>Dr. & Mrs. Dicran Berberian</i>	1,000.00	9,460.53
<i>Leon Giridlian</i>	1,000.00	6,825.00
<i>Mrs. Grace Piranian</i>	1,000.00	3,163.00
<i>Mrs. Louise T. Krikorian</i>	1,000.00	1,100.00

Note: There are a variety of ways in which AMAA members and friends may establish endowment funds under their names or in memory of loved ones. For information write to: The Planned Giving Department, AMAA, Inc., 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652, or call: (201) 265-2607, 265-2608.

THE ELDERLY ARE THE HARDEST HIT BY THE WAR IN LEBANON

The recent intensification of the fighting in Lebanon has had its tragic bearing on the life of all segments of the population of that war-ravaged country. Children are haunted by the constant fear of death; thousands of people have lost their businesses and are unemployed; countless families have been rendered homeless; and many are experiencing the pangs of hunger.

One group that has been hardest hit by the war has been the elderly. The ten-year war has forced drastic demographic changes in the country, and has consequently deprived the elderly of some of their younger productive relatives, who have been forced to leave the country, or are otherwise no longer able to provide economic and social support. In many cases the elderly have become an extra mouth to feed in times when family incomes have already been depleted because of the war-shattered economy.

Consequently, six of the sixteen welfare organizations serving the Armenian community, including the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Action Group, deal mostly with the needs and problems of the elderly. Monthly financial assistance is extended to the needy elderly, and centers have been set up for their care. Attendants have been assigned to care, and sometimes even to feed them and nurses are on hand to check on their health needs. Whenever possible, they are all encouraged to be independent and to live in their own "homes" be they ever so humble.

The human suffering in Lebanon is unimaginable. While we acknowledge our limitations in healing the many wounds inflicted on the Lebanese Society, we believe that our prayers and compassionate expressions of solidarity and financial support can help to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters caught in the middle of the never-ending war. Please join the AMAA in its Relief efforts for Lebanon. Your prayers and your gifts will make a real difference!

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETS AMAA FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Picture taken following the Banquet in tribute to Governor Deukmejian held on Saturday, February 24, 1985 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Washington, D.C. (L. to R.): Dr. Simonian, Dr. G. H. Choupourian, Mr. Arthur Dadian (Benefactor of AMAA), Sister Arousiag and her associate, both of Philadelphia Sisters' Academy.

HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE AUXILIARY HOLDS SUCCESSFUL YULETIDE BENEFIT PARTY

Approximately 300 ladies and guests attended the successful Yuletide Tea and Bake Sale of the Haigazian College Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles on Saturday, December 8, 1984 at the Paul Avazian Hall of the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood. Evelyn Levonian, Suzie Phillips and Anayis Megerdichian were in charge of the elegant tea table which was laden with Armenian delicacies. The beautiful decorations, which gave the hall a festive and cozy atmosphere, were coordinated by Rita Tilkian, Lillian Hartunian, Ida Levy, Inga Markarian and Rene Buchanan. The Los Angeles Choral Ensemble provided the musical part of the festivities with Christmas Carols, and Stella Balikian led the devotional.

ROSEANN SALIBA NAMED AESSC DIRECTOR

Roseann Emerzian Saliba was appointed as the new director of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center (AESCC) of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Saliba, a native californian, is an active member of the Armenian Evangelical community of Los Angeles. A graduate of California State University, Fullerton, she has a degree in sociology.

She previously held an administrative position in the marketing department of Alpha Beta Company where she worked for 15 years.

Mrs. Saliba replaces Hratch Baliozian, the founding director of the center.



Members of Haigazian College Women's Auxiliary at the successful Benefit Party. Top: Mary Varjian. Bottom: Helen Savoian; Mary Kassabian, Aux. Pres.; Ruth Balian and Paulette Kassabian.

CA, the President of the Los Angeles Auxiliary, said, "We are grateful to the many hard working members and friends of our Auxiliary group whose concerned efforts and loving labors brought about the success of the event."

A JOB WELL DONE



Officers of the outgoing Missions and Outreach Committee of the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood. (L. to R.): Dr. Edward Mouradian, principal mechanical engineer and member of the technical staff of Rockwell International, who served capably as Treasurer for 9 years and kept flawless records; Mrs. Mary Koundakjian, the wife of the late Jimmy Koundakjian, who served as the devoted Secretary; Dr. Stepan Merjani, Chairman. They also served in the kitchen for dinners and banquets. We praise God for their outstanding services to Missions and extend our gratitude for their loving and wholehearted support of the AMAA.

DR. THOMAS HALE TO PREPARE COMMENTARY ON THE NEW TESTAMENT IN NEPALI

In a recent letter addressed to their friends and supporters in the United States, Medical Missionaries, Tom and Cynthia Hale, report the following from Nepal:

"In spite of what we wrote in our previous circular letter last May, we have not yet gone to Pokhara. . . Four days after assigning us to Pokhara last May, the Mission asked us first to help out at another mission hospital for three months. Currently there is a great need for Cynthia's services in the Kathmandu area, working in the Lalitpur Community Primary Health Care Program.

"For Tom, at the same time, a unique opportunity has arisen to work on a brief and practical one-volume commentary of the New Testament in Nepali. There is a great need for such a commentary to aid

village congregations in studying the Bible. The project has been greeted with enthusiasm by fellow missionaries and Nepali church leaders alike.

"Therefore, after almost a year of 'floating' about, we will be settling in Kathmandu. Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for God's plan to be fulfilled in the matter of our assignment."

We kindly ask our members and friends to join us in praising God for His faithfulness to Tom and Cynthia Hale and pray that He will continue to use them as instruments of His saving and healing mercies.

UPI RELEASE ON KARL DOGHARAMJI

United Press International picked up and released a media interview by Karl Doghramji, M.D., a psychiatrist directing the Sleep Disorder Center of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. The Center has recently established a telephone "Helpline" that offers sleep tips. One general tip: "If you can't fall asleep within 30 minutes, do not stay in bed. . . Get out of bed, go to another room and return to bed only when you feel sleepy."

Karl is one of the three sons of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Peter Doghramji, Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of America and a former many-term member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

AMAA'S NEW INDEPENDENTLY INVESTIBLE PROGRAM

By decision of the Board of Directors, a new program was established whereby a donor providing a minimum of \$50,000 will have the privilege of having the fund invested in an independent portfolio with the income used for various AMAA purposes which the donor desires.

We are glad to report that about twelve individuals have already accepted to join the \$50,000 Independently Investable Program. Some of these have already paid the \$50,000 in full and signed the contractual agreement; some others have started with \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000 or \$40,000 and will enter into contractual agreement as soon as the total reaches \$50,000. Others have indicated acceptance of the program and will reveal their final commitment as soon as they find it convenient.

There are a variety of other ways in which benefactors may establish endowed funds under their name or in memory of loved ones.

For information, please write to:
The Planned Giving Department
Attention: Dr. G.H. Choupourian
Executive Director of AMAA
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, N.J. 07652
Tel.: (201) 265-2607, 2608



The Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Albarian with their new-born daughter, Priscilla Suzan

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

THE REV. & MRS. HASSESSIAN HONORED



The Rev. Dr. Herald and Mrs. Siranoush Hassessian

On March 1, 1985 the Rev. Dr. Herald A. G. Hassessian retired from his ministry with the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, N.Y. He was called to serve as the pastor of the New York Church in 1982 following a fruitful pastoral ministry of 15 years with the Armenian Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, Mass. On this occasion, the New York Church family honored the Rev. Hassessian and his wife, Siranoush, with a Farewell Dinner on March 17. Marking the occasion was also Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, who extended a reception in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. Hassessian on March 28 at the Diocese Headquarters in New York. Both of these events served to pay a most befitting and deserving tribute to the Rev. Hassessian who served the Church of Jesus Christ and his people as an outstanding minister of the Gospel for about one-half of a century. An important part of Rev. Hassessian's successful ministry has been his enthusiasm in communicating the Good News. Throughout, he has been an inspiring preacher, teacher, counselor and writer. He is the author of several books in Armenian and in English, all of which attest to his deep spiritual insights and broad academic background. Rev. Hassessian, who calls himself a "perpetual student of theology, psychology and philosophy," recently added yet another academic accomplishment to his credit when he earned a summa cum laude

Doctor of Theology degree from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana.

The AMAA was represented at the festive Farewell gathering by the Executive Director of the AMAA, who brought the greetings and best wishes of the President, the Board of Directors and Field Directors. They express their gratitude to God for the commitment and love with which the Rev. Hassessian and his dear wife served our churches and community, and wish them Godspeed as they retire to Pasadena to join their children.

ELDERS OF THE APC HOLD RETREAT



Elders of the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) of Paramus who participated in a recent one-day retreat. The Missions Outreach of the Church was among the important themes discussed during the retreat, which was led by the Rev. Karl V. Avakian, Pastor of the APC and Board Member of the AMAA.

NERSES BALABANIAN AND SEVAN KARJIAN ENGAGED

Nerves Balabanian, an AMAA supported seminary student at the Near East School of Theology of Beirut, Lebanon, has informed the Executive Director about his recent engagement to Miss Sevan Karjian. Sevan is the daughter of Rev. Hovhannes Karjian, Pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut, as well as the Moderator of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. We rejoice at the



Nerves Balabanian and Sevan Karjian

happy news and pray that God will bless Nerves and Sevan abundantly.

THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY TO HONOR GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN



Governor and Mrs. George Deukmejian

The Armenian Evangelical Community of North America will honor Governor and Mrs. George Deukmejian with a special Banquet on Saturday, May 4, 1985, at the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood, CA. The Banquet, which will feature District Attorney Robert Philibosian as Master of Ceremonies, is sponsored jointly by the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. Tickets for the Banquet are available at the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Los Angeles, Fresno and San Francisco and at the West Coast Office of the AMAA: 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 302, Los Angeles, CA. 90029: Telephone (213) 466-2914.

MR. BOB (AVEDISSIAN) AVIAN HIGHLY PLACED IN THE THEATER



Bob (Avedessian) Avian

Mr. Bob Avian, son of the late Hampar, and Mrs. Esther Avedessian, Endowment Funder with the AMAA, makes great theater news of which few of us are aware. Mr. Avian has been an integral part of every Michael Bennett show for the past 20 years. He has worked as associate choreographer and/or assistant director in Henry, Sweet Henry; Promises, Promises; Coco; Company; Follies; Twigs, Season and God's Favorite. In 1976 he received a Tony Award and the L.A. Drama Critics' Award as choreographer of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "A Chorus Line." In 1979 he co-produced Ballroom, for which he and Michael Bennett won another Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Choreography, and he is co-producer of the current hit "Dream Girls." Vogue magazine, in an article on Michael Bennett & Co., states that Bob Avian is Michael's right hand man; the renowned Finale of "Chorus Line" is choreographed more by Avian than Michael; Bennett's acclaimed mirror sequence in "Follies" is in fact Avian's.

Bob, who shuns the limelight, worked in earlier days in extended workshops at the New York Shakespeare Festival for \$100 a week. Bob says of his working relationships with Michael Bennett: "I think my strongest asset to Michael is that I like solutions, I come up with ideas, and Michael relies on me for options. He has an uncanny ability to recycle ideas, and he surrounds himself with people who can offer intelligent alternatives. We respect each other's talent, and nothing interferes with that."

DICRAN BERBERIAN'S EXHIBIT IN NEW YORK DRAWS LARGE CROWD

A large crowd of 500 persons attended the opening reception of Artist Dicran Berberian's Exhibit, "Figures and Faces," at the Just Above Midtown Gallery on Broadway in New York City on December 4.

Armenian friends of the artist were joined by American members of the New York art establishment including Jerome Robbins, Director of the New York City Ballet; Vartan Gregorian, President of the New York Public Library; and show business personality Quentin Crisp and others.

The exhibition included 46 paintings and large drawings using a combination of tempera, pastel and charcoal. Berberian uses vivid colors, contour lines and a great deal of movement in his work to express a wide variety of feelings, moods, personalities and figurative subjects.

The one oil painting, "Under the Crest of the Wave," is a metaphor for the Genocide of 1915 and a part of a larger series of paintings on this subject that was not shown in this exhibition.

Plans are currently being made for exhibitions of Dicran Berberian's work in Washington and Dallas.

SYLVIA KUTCHUKIAN WILL PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL

On May 8, 1985 at 2:30 p.m., Dramatic Soprano, Sylvia Kutchukian will perform at the Carnegie Hall as the Soloist of the Senior Concert Orchestra under the direction of Daniel Vandersall. Sylvia's selections will include operatic arias from Wagner, Verdi and Strauss. For complimentary tickets call Mr. Feinberg at the Box Office of Carnegie Hall.

SET MOMJIAN

AMAA's former Board Member and the National Chairman of our 60th Anniversary Celebration of 1978, Mr. Set Momjian, was featured in a very lengthy article in the Philadelphia Inquirer of Tuesday, March 12, 1985. On the same page where Mr. Momjian's portrait ap-

peared, four frames of pictures are included in which Mr. Momjian and his wife, Joan, appear with four different Presidents — Presidents Reagan, Carter, Ford and Nixon. The article provided an extensive story of Set Momjian, a private antique collector for pleasure, from his early days in Ocean City to the present. A rumpus started over the purchase of an antique decanter with the monogram "M" (standing for President Madison) and the White House Curator, Clement Conger. Both men phoned bids into Sloan's but through an operator foul-up Conger lost even though his bid was higher. Conger is unhappy but Set says, beaming, "It's so beautiful."

GRACE SHIRAGIAN JOINS THE NEW YORK OPERA ENSEMBLE



Grace Shiragian

Grace Shiragian, violinist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ara Shiragian of Cranston, R.I., has joined the New York Opera Ensemble on an extended performing tour of Europe.

Grace graduated from the Boston University School of Fine Arts, majoring in Music Performance and has worked extensively as a free-lance musician, performing with several orchestras and chamber groups in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In the past three summers Grace participated in an opera festival in Austria. She has always shared her talent with Armenian cultural groups and has performed at many Armenian church functions. Grace was the recipient of an AMAA scholarship.

Congratulations, Grace, and we wish you success in your career.

OBITUARIES

Sympathies extended: — The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.

THE REV. KRIKOR DEMIRJIAN



The Rev. Krikor Demirjian

Once in a while God raises church leaders in the likeness of the prophets of the olden times, whose life-struggle, tough spiritual qualities and leadership capabilities become a source of inspiration to countless people everywhere. Such a church leader was the Rev. Krikor Demirjian, the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kokkinia and Dergouti in Greece. After serving the Lord long and hard, the Rev. Demirjian, often called the "Blind Prophet of Greece," completed his unique earthly pilgrimage and was called to his eternal rest on Dec. 19, 1984.

The Rev. Demirjian, born in Marash in 1896, lost his mother when he was only eight, his two younger brothers a little later, and his sight at age 15. But mixing hope, courage, fortitude, perseverance and inspiration from God he worked his way up to a theological diploma and the pastorate of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kokkinia, Piraeus, Greece in 1927. On June 13, 1982 he was honored by the community for his 55 years of pastoral ministry in Greece. It was a total ministry, encompassing religious, educational, social service and cultural programs.

Speaking of his loss of sight, the Rev. Demirjian wrote in his *A Brief Outline of My Life Story*: "I was attending school and obtaining a sound Christian education full of rosy hopes and passionate zeal and enthusiasm but, at age 15, my education was interrupted by a sudden total blindness which shattered all my hopes and darkened my bright sky with gloomy clouds of despondency and disappointment. This discouragement did not last very long, however, because the religious ideas and feelings incubating in my soul burst

out, resulting in my spiritual conversion or regeneration and which flooded my heart with profound joy, opened before my spiritual eyes an infinite realm of eternal values and gave me renewed hope, courage and inspiration. Nothing could crush my will and quench my deep desire for further education and spiritual growth. So, despite my handicap I immersed in the study of history, science, mathematics, French, German and English with the help of God and the assistance of many friends who read aloud for my benefit."

Following the evacuation of Cilicia by the French forces in 1921, he left for Smyrna with his classmates where he got on the honor roll. He was miraculously saved in 1922 from the Smyrna disaster and took refuge in Thessalonica where he joined the American Agricultural and Industrial School. And in 1923, he was invited to enter the Athens School of Religion where he followed a four-year course in Theology, graduating in 1927. A year prior to graduation, in 1926, he was married to Adel Keshishian and began to serve a pastorate in 1927 leading to his ordination on April 7, 1946.

The Rev. Demirjian's capacity for memory was amazing. What he had lost in sight he regained in contemplation. When at the pulpit, he led the worship service from memory, announcing hymns, stating which stanzas were to be sung and quoting at least the first stanza from memory for the benefit of the congregation. Some of the greatest of authors were his inspiration. He often quoted the words of John Milton, the blind author of *Paradise Lost*, "Thou has dimmed my vision that I may see Thee and Thee alone," and the words of Whittier, in his poem, "My Birthday," spoke to his heart too:

And, if the eye must fail of sight,
the ear forget to hear,
make clearer still the spirit's sight,
more fine the inward ear."

"How often, by the fatherly help of God, I have been able to surmount the obstacles and difficulties in my life," he stressed. "Fortunately, my physical handicap opened before me a new vision, a heavenly vision, which moved me from glory to glory, from strength to strength and from heights to heights. I am in a position to testify that thanks to this spiritual vision I have been able to fight, master and overcome a good many impediments in my way. Christ the Lord has given sufficient power and grace to me to turn my stumbling block into a stepping stone, to change my physical disaster into coronation, and to

translate my handicap into triumph."

We praise the Lord for the able ministry of the Rev. Demirjian and thank the Armenian community of Athens for honoring this servant and their spiritual shepherd so warmly and generously two and a half years ago. The Rev. Demirjian is survived by his devoted, loving, caring, compassionate and helpful wife, Adel; and son Hovig, a surgeon in the State Hospital in Athens, Greece.

MAKROOHI A. HAROUTUNIAN



Makroohi A. Haroutunian

Makroohi (Nergizian) Haroutunian was born in 1894, in Marash, Armenia, and graduated from the Marash Girls' College. Before the Turkish Massacres, her mother, Yester, brought her to America, where she joined Shawmut Church of Boston and became its pianist.

She married Yessayi Haroutunian in 1916 and were blessed with five children. In 1929, the family settled in Hollywood, CA. After Yessayi's death in 1949, Makroohi worked in the laboratory of the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles in order to support and educate her two younger children. Proud as she was in her Armenian heritage, a deep pride of being an American citizen shone on her face when on her 75th birthday celebration, she received a congratulatory telegram from then President and Mrs. Nixon.

Her earthly pilgrimage ended 3 weeks after her 89th birthday, when the Lord took her to her heavenly home. Makroohi is survived by her daughters: Zabelle Chalian, Grayce Martin and Armineh Sotirovic; her son, Aram; and five grandchildren. Her son wrote a poem the very night she passed away which lifts up the celebration aspect of her life. We quote this one important stanza out of the eloquent ten:

"She gave us more than could be given
Our gratitude abounds
Now that she's entered into Heaven
Let loose the joyful sounds"

HAMPTON S. KALYN



Hampton Kalyn with his surviving wife, Grace

Hampton S. Kalyn, 88, a retired RCA engineer, died on January 15, 1985 at the Lutheran Nursing Center in Moorestown, N.J. Memorial services were held on Jan. 16 at Lewis Funeral Home.

A graduate of Oberlin College, he earned a master's degree at the University of Michigan before joining RCA's staff in 1932. He worked in radio and television design in the corporation's Cherry Hill facility until his retirement in 1962.

A native of Armenia, Hampton held membership with the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown of which he was an elder and was past president of the Williamstown (NJ) Rotary Club.

Survivors are: Wife, Grace; son, Richard of Bremerton, Wash.; daughter, Dorothy Rodman of Medford Lakes, N.J.; two grandsons; and sister, Lucy Sarkissian of Greece.

EMELIA GULDALIAN



Emelia Guldalian

Emelia (Chaglasian) Guldalian of Glendale, California, passed away on June 29, 1984.

Emelia was born in Kilis, Turkey, and moved at an early age to Aleppo, Syria, where she married Ohannes Guldalian, her husband of 55 years. After living in Beirut, Lebanon for 10 years they moved to Los Angeles to join

their children.

She lived a long and fruitfull life. In addition to her strong devotion to her beloved family, she deeply loved her church and attended regularly. She was a member of Nahadagatz Church in Aleppo, and belonged to Eshrefieh Church in Beirut. In Los Angeles she was active in United Armenian Congregational Church's Ladies Guild and a member of AMAA. Through much love and many sacrifices she raised four wonderful children who were instilled with traditional Christian values and Armenian heritage.

Emelia is survived by her husband, four children (Alice Andonian of Glendale, Ca. Polin also of Glendale, George of Los Angeles, and Antranik of Montebello, Ca.) 9 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Emelia will be missed by a host of close relatives and friends.

Mrs. Mugar was a strong advocate of social services for the elderly. She participated in the development of Massachusetts' first retirement community to include townhouse apartments, a retirement home and an inpatient nursing facility in the same complex. An accomplished pianist and organist, and an optimistic, humble and capable person, she involved herself in her family and community with a selfless zeal. Mrs. Mugar and her late husband, AMAA Benefactor Stephen P. Mugar, have left a legacy of benevolences that will continue to be a blessing to the Armenian people and to the non-Armenian community in many areas throughout the world.

She is survived by Carolyn G. and David G. Mugar; sisters Helen Davis and Marlean Graves; and three grandchildren.

MARY E. MOORADIAN



Mary E. Mooradian

Mrs. Mary E. Mooradian, 79, wife of the late oriental rug dealer in Lancaster, Sarkis, died in the Sunbury Community Hospital in Pennsylvania.

Born in Centre County on Feb. 10, 1905 to the late Edward and Annie Besteman Paul, Mary became a true Armenian *Harss* as her bequest of \$35,000 for the AMAA would testify.

Mrs. Mooradian was a member of the First Baptist Church, Sunbury, and was a former Sunday school teacher in the First Church of God, Lancaster, and Ash Grove United Methodist Church, Paxinos, for 37 years.

She is survived by two brothers and a sister: Joseph E. Paul of Danville, Thomas M. Paul and Mrs. Marie A. Nelson, both of Sunbury.

The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Ronald L. Shupe, and burial was in the Ash Grove United Methodist Cemetery, Paxinos.

LYDIA ZEROUNIAN

Miss Lydia Zerounian died on January 6, 1985. Born in Turkey in 1926, she lived in Fresno for the past 15 years. She was a homemaker and a member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church and the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Funeral services for Lydia were held on January 10, 1985 at the First Armenian

Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Bernard Guerguezian officiating. Burial was in the Ararat Cemetery of Fresno.

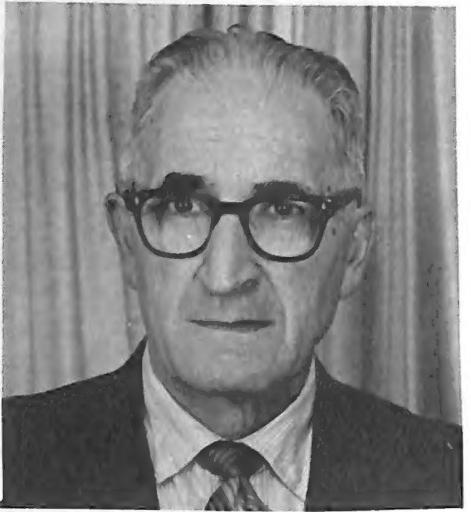
Miss Zerounian is survived by two brothers: John of Fresno and Harootun of Syria; a sister, Brike Barsamian of Fresno; and nieces and nephews.

HAIG KEVORKIAN

Haig Kevorkian died on January 7, 1985. He was born in 1916 and was a lifelong resident of Fresno. Haig was the co-owner of OK Produce for 40 years until his retirement in 1977. He was a member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church and the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn; a son, Allan D., of Fresno; and three sisters: Zepher Saroyan, and Stella and Rita Kevorkian, both of Fresno.

ANDREW D. MICHAELIAN



Andrew D. Michaelian

Andrew Michaelian, son of the late Krikor and Susan (Barbadian) Michaelian, passed away on Jan. 4, 1985. He was born in Lowell, MA in 1904.

Married to Helen Ogasian of Worcester, MA in 1928, the couple celebrated their 56th anniversary in May, 1984. God blessed their union with a happy home and three children: Peter Andrew Michaelian of Great Bridge, VA; Mrs. Paul Davis of Worcester, MA; and Mrs. Vahe Michael Jardarian of Shrewsbury, MA.

The family moved to Worcester and became active members of the Armenian Church of the Martyrs. Member of the Friendly Circle of the Church, Helen also serves as the chairperson of the Missionary Committee of the Church associated with the Armenian Missionary Association. Peter served as the member of the Board of Trustees of the Church until he moved to Great Bridge, Virginia.

Andrew will be sadly missed by his loving family and his two sisters: Margaret Maranian of Gloucester, and Elizabeth Avedessian of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He will also be missed by his many friends and relatives for whom he had a special feeling of love and concern.

JOSEPH BOYAJIAN



Joseph Boyajian

Private funeral services were held for Joseph (Nercessian) Boyajian Sr., 77, of Hudson River Rd., Waterford, N.Y., president of The Land Man Enterprises Inc., who died on Saturday, Dec. 8, 1984.

Born in Aintab, Turkey, youngest of ten children, he was the son of the late Avedis and Florence (Golanjian) Boyajian (Nercessian). He immigrated to the United States from Aleppo, Syria in 1923, lived in Providence, R.I. until 1949, operated two meat markets in Troy, N.Y. for many years, the Hudson Valley Livestock Auction Market until 1967 and managed the Land Man Realty for about twenty year.

As one of his close associates said, "Joe was admired by all for overcoming the hardships of his early youth and for his industriousness in establishing himself, relatively securely, in a new land. He had a way of putting little earthly crisis in perspective... laughed a lot over crazy little things which happened in the business. A part of his spirit will remain with all those who knew him."

Survivors include his wife, the former Mary Koshgarian; three sons, Arthur J., Joseph Jr. and Donald W.; a daughter, Elesa B. Ambrosino; a brother, Kasper Boyajian of Troy; two sisters, Mary Doakmajian and Nectar Kazelian; four grandchildren and sixteen nieces and nephews.

MARGARET DONABEDIAN

Mrs. Margaret Donabedian was born in 1900 in Bitlis, Armenia. She lived for 71 years in Modesto and Turlock, CA, where she and her late husband, Mike, had been ranchers.

She entered into her eternal rest on January 22, 1985. Funeral Services were held in Modesto, CA, and were officiated by the Rev. Leslie A. Malakian of the Geneva Presbyterian Church of Modesto.

ELSA KERR, WIDOW OF THE AUTHOR OF LIONS OF MARASH DIED AT 89

Elsa Reckman Kerr, who spent 40 years in Lebanon promoting higher education for women and was formerly dean of women at the American University of Beirut, died in Hightstown, N.J.

Mrs. Kerr's husband, author of *The Lions of Marash*, worked in Marash, Turkey and the two married in 1921. From 1921 to 1925, as hostilities mounted between the Turks and the Armenians, both were instrumental in relief operations and the removal of Armenian children from Marash to Lebanon.

Throughout the 1920's, they ran an orphanage for Armenian boys in Beirut. In 1925, when Mr. Kerr began teaching at the American University, Mrs. Kerr became a professor of mathematics at the Beirut College for Women, where she taught for two decades.

JOHN V. KIZIRIAN



John V. Kizirian

John V. Kizirian entered his eternal rest on November 13, 1984. Born in 1915, he was a lifelong resident of Fresno, and co-owner of J & J Service in Easton for 33 years.

John was a veteran of WW II, member of the American Legion, the Fresno County Farm Bureau and the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA.

John is survived by three daughters: Mrs. George (Rose Marie) Samuelian of Fresno, Mrs. Dennis (Donna Ann) Kenbach of Clovis, and Mrs. Larry (Linda Karen) Jenkins of Madera, all of CA; a brother, Jake, of Fresno; two sisters, Margaret Aslanian of Fresno and Elizabeth Khachikian of Visalia, CA; and four grandchildren.

JOHN G. EOMURIAN

Known as "Uncle John" to all his relatives and friends, he was 94 years old when he died on Nov. 23, 1984. Born in Marsovan, Armenia, to parents Anna Babisinian and Garabed Eomurian, one of eight children, he immigrated to the United States in 1911 to join his two brothers, Dick and Harry.

Married to the late Jessie Altoonian in 1915, with whom he lived 67 years, the couple were blessed with two daughters. A son died at birth. A printer by trade, he later went into the restaurant and drugstore businesses with various relatives and, mixing good samaritanism with business, he started the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church with six friends. He was the treasurer for many years and received a 50-year recognition plaque for layman services.

Funeral services were conducted at Westminster Memorial Park with the Rev. Edward Tovmassian officiating.

He is mourned by his daughters, Flora Garakian and family, Ruth Proodian and family, and grandchildren, great-grandchildren and countless number of relatives and friends. Uncle John, blessed with good health and a happy disposition, was a man well deserving of a long life.

ALICE BARSOUMIAN ASADORIAN



Alice Barsoumian Asadorian, 89, of Englewood died on February 22, 1985. Born in Aintab, Turkey, she came to this country 62 years ago. Surviving are three daughters, Lucy Cherkezian of Englewood, Anna Misirian in Pennsylvania, and Mary Vanian in California; two sons, John of Teaneck, N.J., and Harry of Long Island, N.Y.; 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Services were held on February 25th at the Armenian Presbyterian Church, Paramus, with the Rev. Karl Vartan Avakian officiating. Burial was at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, N.J.

PETER BEZZIAN

Peter Bezjian, 77, died on Dec. 13, 1984 at the Eureka Springs Hospital. He was born on May 7, 1907 at Aintab, Turkey to Moses and Miriam (Demir) Bezjian. On Feb. 9, 1933 he was married to Kathryn Thetford who pre-deceased him.

Mr. Bezjian was a dry cleaner, a veteran of World War II and a member of the United Methodist Church in Eureka Springs. He was also assistant Director of the Arkansas Green Thumb Program from its beginning until 1979.

Survivors include one son and daughter-

in-law, Bill and Mildred Bezjian of Kirkland, Wash., one daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Frank Clouser of Eureka Springs, one brother Alex and sister-in-law Victoria Bezjian of Los Angeles, Calif., six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

NAZARIAN, Miss Lucy
Van Nuys, CA Jan. 3, 1985
***MICHAELIAN, Mr. Andrew**
Worcester, MA Jan. 4, 1985
FIRTH, Mr. Ellis
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands Jan. 6, 1985

***GAZARIAN, Bertha**
Oakland, CA Jan. 6, 1985

***ZEROUMAN, Miss Lydia**
Fresno, CA Jan. 6, 1985

KEVORKIAN, Mr. Haig
Fresno, CA Jan. 7, 1985

***LEVONIAN, Mrs. Virginia**
Los Angeles, CA Jan. 9, 1985

DAGDIGIAN, Elizabeth
Lowell, MA Jan. 14, 1985

***KALYN, Hampton S.**
Moorestown, NJ Jan. 15, 1985

***TELLALIAN, Mrs. Nellie E.**
Orosi, CA Jan. 18, 1985

KAZARIAN, Mrs. Siranoush
California Jan. 19, 1985

SIMONIAN, Mrs. Irene
Woodside, CA Jan. 19, 1985

GARRON, Dr. Levon K.
Piedmont, CA Jan. 21, 1985

YAGIAN, Mr. Lillian B. (Mrs. Ara)
Detroit, MI Jan. 23, 1985

HALAJIAN, Mrs. Jack (Agnes
Crekjian)
Teaneck, NJ Jan. 26, 1985

MANOOGIAN, Mrs. Arpine
Fresno, CA Jan. 27, 1985

ARZOIAN, Mr. Carl
Los Angeles, CA Jan. 30, 1985

NAHIGIAN, Miss Helen
Belmont, MA Jan. 31, 1985

***ASADORIAN, Mrs. Alice**
Bersoumian
Englewood, NJ Feb. 1, 1985

THOMASON, Mr. Massis Nerses
Belmont, MA Feb. 4, 1985

HASERJIAN, Mrs. Nourita
Northridge, CA Feb. 6, 1985

***AJEMIAN, Miss Nellie**
Fresno, CA Feb. 7, 1985

***TATARIAN, Mrs. Zephyr**
Holly Hill, FL Feb. 10, 1985

ERYSIAN, Mrs. Jack (Alice)
Fresno, CA Feb. 12, 1985

GETZOYAN, Mr. Sarkis
Belmont, MA Feb. 14, 1985

HAMPARTZOUIAN, The Rev.
Hampartzoum
Los Angeles, CA Feb. 14, 1985

BAZIKIAN, Mr. Leo G.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ Feb. 16, 1985

SARKISIAN, Mrs. Arthur (Rena)
Crawford, NJ Feb. 25, 1985

TCHOLAKIAN, Mr. Haroutiun
Arthur
Great Falls, VA Mar. 4, 1985

SIDERI, Mrs. Donna Gulezian
North Andover, MA Mar. 20, 1985

*Memorials were designated for AMAA.

*Bequest.

AMAA BOARD DETERMINES TO ESTABLISH THE A. A. BEDIKIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Rev. A. A. Bedikian

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association, at its meeting on March 2, 1985, determined to establish a Theological Student Aid Fund in tribute to the Rev. Bedikian on the occasion of the centennial of his birth. The fund will be named *The Reverend A.A. Bedikian Theological Scholarship Fund*. The Board would like to see the Capital established at a figure which will produce \$1,000 income a year.

The proposal is to the effect that the income be used for scholarship for the training of a student in a theological seminary who is preparing for the Christian ministry.

The Rev. A.A. Bedikian served the Armenian Missionary Association as a volunteer in many capacities for many, many years. He laid down strong foundations for the Association both in terms of its purposes and goals and financial directions.

We feel confident that many of his friends, parishioners and acquaintances will join hands with us in creating the said scholarship fund.

It is anticipated that a fund of \$20,000 will provide adequately for the annual scholarship of an Armenian theological student. Using the coupon below, please issue your check to the Armenian Missionary Association and mark it for the *A. A. Bedikian Scholarship Fund*.

Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, N.J. 07652

I am pleased to participate in the program of the AMAA in establishing the A.A. Bedikian Scholarship in tribute to him on the occasion of the centennial of his birth.

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City

State

Zip Code

Amount of Donation: _____

Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

WHY GIVE MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO?

Every gift we receive for the Missionary outreach of the AMAA is much appreciated and greatly welcomed. We encourage you to give as freely as your wishes and circumstances allow.

But we also urge planned giving that helps you make the most of your resources for yourself, your loved ones and the Lord's work.

To learn more about the benefits of gifts of various types of property... how to make a gift and receive an income for life... and other practical methods of giving... return the coupon below.

You'll receive a complimentary copy of "15 Ways to Plan Your Charitable Gifts," a guide to ways of giving that can stretch your gift dollar. We offer it as a service to those who enjoy supporting our Missionary work and want to do it as profitably as possible.

Return to:
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A.M.A.A.

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Ways to Plan Your Charitable Gifts."
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